

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).
2. (canceled).
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein each bit in the first bit stream and the second bit stream has a value.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein each bit corresponds to a an API feature.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein a feature is supported if the corresponding bit value is a one (1).
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein a feature is not supported if the corresponding bit value is a zero (0).
7. (canceled)
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 7, wherein the comparing step includes performing a logical AND operation between the bit streams.
9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein each bit in the first bit stream and the second bit stream has a value.

12. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein each bit corresponds to a feature.

13. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein a feature is supported if the corresponding bit value is a one (1).

14. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein a feature is not supported if the corresponding bit value is a zero (0).

15. (canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~5~~ 16, wherein the comparing ~~instruction~~ includes performing a logical AND operation between the first bit stream and the second bit stream ~~streams~~.

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).

19. (canceled).

20. (canceled).

21. (canceled).

22. (canceled).

23. (canceled).

24. (canceled).

25. (canceled).

26. (canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating application programming interface (API) capabilities supported by a database of a first device to one or more a second devices device for establishing communication between the first device and the one or more second devices, comprising the steps of:

generating a first bit stream having bits in a predetermined sequence successively arranged from lowest functional level to highest functional level to send from the first device to the one or more second device devices, the first bit stream representing a highest API feature ~~installed~~ and intermediary API features installed on the first device, wherein ~~all of the installed API~~ intermediary API features of the first device are not required to utilize the installed API highest API feature;

receiving a second bit stream having bits in a predetermined sequence successively arranged from lowest functional level to highest functional level sent from one of the one or more second device devices to the first device, the second bit stream representing a highest API feature ~~installed~~ and intermediary API features installed on the second device wherein the installed intermediary API features of the one of the one or more second devices are not required to utilize the installed highest API feature; and

comparing the first first and second bit streams in relation to the predetermined sequence at the first device and at the one of the one or more second devices to configure communications between the APIs for mutually supported API features, the mutually

supported features including a highest API feature and one or more intermediary API features in common commonly installed to both the first device and the one of the one or more second device devices and including the intermediary API features in common, and, adapting processing to utilize a resulting set of the mutually supported API features during the communication between the first device and the one of the one or more second devices by installing the highest API feature of the second bit stream and only the intermediary API features of the second bit stream that are not already installed in the first device,

wherein the first device and the one or more second devices communicate across a heterogeneous network, the first device and each of the one or more second devices are any of a client and server, and the API on the first and the one or more second devices comprises one or more of Open Database Connectivity (ODBC), Object Linking and Embedded Database (OLEDB) or Java Database Connectivity (JDBC).

28. (canceled).

29. (canceled) .

30. (canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising: sending the first bit stream to a third device; and receiving at the first device a third bit stream from a third device, the third bit stream representing a highest API feature installed and intermediary API features installed in an API of the third device.

32. (canceled).

33. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating capabilities supported by a first device to a plurality of second device devices for establishing communication, comprising the step of:

receiving a first bit stream having bits in a predetermined sequence successively arranged from lowest functional level to highest functional level at each of the plurality of second device devices from the first device, the bit stream representing a highest API feature installed and intermediary API features installed on the first device, wherein all of the intermediary API features are not required to utilize the highest API feature;

comparing the first bit stream and each of the plurality of second devices bit streams to determine a highest common API feature and to determine which of the intermediary API features need to be installed in the first device for communication with each of the plurality of second device devices using the highest common API feature and common intermediary API features,

adapting processing to utilize a resulting set of the determined API features for each of communication as between the first bit stream and each of the plurality of second devices bit streams,

wherein the first device and each of the plurality of second devices communicate across a heterogeneous network, the first device and each of the plurality of second devices are any of a client and server, and the API on the first and each of the plurality of second devices comprises one or more of Open Database Connectivity (ODBC), Object Linking and Embedded Database (OLEDB) or Java Database Connectivity (JDBC)..

34. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for communicating application programming interface (API) capabilities supported by a database of a first device to at least one of a second device for establishing communication, the program instructions for:

generating a first bit stream having bits in a predetermined sequence successively arranged from lowest functional level to highest functional level to send from the first device to the at least second device, the first bit stream representing a highest API feature ~~installed~~ and intermediary API features installed on the first device, wherein all of the installed API intermediary API features of the first device are not required to utilize the installed API highest API feature;

receiving a second bit stream having bits in a predetermined sequence successively arranged from lowest functional level to highest functional level sent from the at least one of a second device to the first device, the second bit stream representing a highest API feature ~~installed~~ and intermediary API features installed on the at least one second device wherein the installed intermediary API features of the at least one second device are not required to utilize the installed highest API feature; and,

comparing the ~~first~~ first and second bit streams in relation to the predetermined sequence at the first device and at the at least one of a second device to configure communications between the APIs for mutually supported API features, the mutually supported features including a highest API feature and one or more intermediary API features in common commonly installed to both the first device and the at least one of a second device ~~and including the intermediary API features in common~~, and,

adapting processing to utilize a resulting set of the mutually supported API features during the communication between the first device and the at least one of a second device by installing the highest API feature of the second bit stream and only the intermediary API features of the second bit stream that are not already installed in the first device,

wherein the first device and the at least one of a second device

communicate across a heterogeneous network, the first device and each of the one or more second devices are any of a client and server, and the API on the first and the one or more second devices comprises one or more of Open Database Connectivity (ODBC), Object Linking and Embedded Database (OLEDB) or Java Database Connectivity (JDBC).